

THE DAILY REBEL.

Office on Market Street, nearly opposite the Post Office

CHATTANOOGA:
SUNDAY MORNING, NOV. 9, 1863.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS—DUTIES OF
EDITORS.

A free press is the bulwark of civil liberty. We do not think that the public press of the country should ever indulge in denunciation or abuse of public officers, either civil or military; but a fair and judicious criticism of public officers and public measures is right and proper. We know it is sometimes said that nothing should be said or done to impair confidence in the Generals appointed to command our armies. Whilst we admit that, as a general rule, everything should be done to strengthen our confidence in our rulers, both civil and military, yet there may be errors—there may be abuses which it is not only right but the duty of the public press, both to notice and to censure. Any other doctrine would establish an absolute despotism.

We do not know that officers in the army occupy any higher position or are entitled to any more consideration than the officers of the civil government. We have as much right to criticise the conduct of a General, and to condemn abuses, if any exist, as we have to criticise the conduct of the President and his Cabinet, or the action of members of Congress. In regard to all officers we should exercise the utmost prudence and caution in speaking of their actions, but at the same time we should never lose sight of the interests of our country, in order to screen public officers, either civil or military. It affords us much more pleasure to praise than to censure, though there are some things of which our consciences and our sense of duty to the country will not permit us to approve. If incompetency, stupidity, drunkenness, or a reckless disregard of the lives, health and comfort of our soldiers, or of the civil, political, and social rights of our citizens cannot be alluded to by the public press, then indeed is our freedom a mere name! We are happy to believe that most of our Generals and high public functionaries are disposed to do their duty—their whole duty—to the country, and whilst battling against a tyrannical foe are anxious not to interfere with the rights of the citizen or the privileges of the soldier any more than is essential to the public welfare. We are in favor of strict discipline in the army, believing that it is best for the comfort and welfare of the men as well as essential to the success of our cause. Whenever it becomes necessary to abridge the rights of the citizen for the common good, we think it ought to be done. But every act of petty tyranny, which is of no use to any one, we do not and never will sanction.

Soldiers or subordinate officers are not allowed to criticise the conduct of their superior officers, because this would be a violation of the military discipline so essential to the well being of our army; and if citizens are not allowed to express their opinions when things are going wrong, and the public press is to be trammeled because the editors are not in the army, then indeed there is no safeguard against abuses, no matter how glaring. In Great Britain, since the days of 1st and 2d Charles, and of James II, the doctrine never has been advanced, that any public officer, whether military or civil, was above public criticism. The King or Queen alone could not be spoken disrespectfully of, but his or her Cabinet counselors, prime minister or most prominent Generals, have all been liable to the criticism of the public press. This has been the case even in a constitutional monarchy, in time of war as well as of peace. How much more should this be the case in a Republic which is founded upon public opinion, and intended to protect the rights and liberties of the people.

Any other policy would lead to an unmitigated despotism. The following order was issued by a certain General Van Dorn, for whom we never have entertained any admiration:

"If any editor or publisher of a newspaper shall publish or copy into his newspaper any article calculated to impair confidence in any of the commanding officers whom the President may see fit to place over the troops, such editor or proprietor shall be subject to fine and imprisonment, and the publication of such paper shall be thereafter suspended."

This would lead to a tyrannical power as would be establishing over the people an Austrian despotism. Whilst we make these remarks, contending for the liberty of free speech, we at the same time think all editors of newspapers, as well as members of Congress, should be cautious and careful in their criticisms upon Generals at the head of our armies, because often things may be done which their full knowledge of all the attendant facts and circumstances, and their enlightened judgment may satisfy them is right and proper, but which may appear to be very unwise to those whose means of information and whose skill cannot be com-

pared to that of the commanding Generals. Public opinion may often be wrong, and popular clamor should never control Generals or statesmen; but when public sentiment is based upon facts and is guided by reason and judgment, it is entitled to high regard, not only by statesmen, but by Generals in the field.

We have made these remarks because we think there is sometimes a disposition on the one hand to censure without cause, and on the other to suppress all liberty of thought and of speech. Both of these are grave errors which should be corrected. "Error of opinion may be tolerated where reason is left free to combat it." A truly great General or great statesman does not object to having his conduct and opinions investigated, because as gold becomes purer by being tried in the fire, so the conduct of truly great men becomes brighter the more thorough the examination it undergoes.

Mrs. Phillips, wife of the Gen. P. Phillips of Ala., who was arrested and driven out of Washington, has been a second time released from a second confinement on Ship Island. Her sufferings have been truly shocking. A victim first to the degrading meanness of the authorities in Washington and lastly to the atrocious abandonment of Butler the Beast, this lady has proven herself as queenly in martyrdom, as in the splendor of society. Col. Phillips and family intend seeking a refuge and home in Georgia, where his reputation for legal and literary ability will make him and his accomplished family, a warm welcome.

The ups and downs of the Yankees Generals are truly diverting. The fluctuations in the military market equal those of Wall street. There is not a soldier among them, who, when he lays him down at night, can say that he will arise the same man next day. He may be a very different individual indeed. The truth is that the officials at Washington believe with Hamlet that every dog must have his day. The "little Napoleon" however is having a rather longer one than some people bargained for. From our despatches on yesterday, it seems that he is once more commander-in-chief of the Northern army. Halleck being again sent out West.

We have advice from the North up to the Statute, from which we learn that Gen. Buell has been ordered to Annapolis, and that Gen. Rosecrans has taken his place. The latter General was surrendered in Louisville, on his arrival there, and made a speech in which he said that "speech-making was not his vocation, but most of his fortune and is about to return to the stage." She is living in Paris.

Mr. Richings and daughter are still playing at Rochester.

An offer of £10,000 has been made to Mr. Charles Kyan for three months' engagement in Australia, for readings, &c.

There are all sorts of predictions of an early general engagement in Virginia. But let us hope the majority of "rumors" and "revelations" received from that quarter, not entitled to more weight than any other expressions and speculations. We are likely to have a great battle in the Four-west before the cannon roar thunder among the hills of the old Dominion.

Mrs. Gen. McClellan, says the N. Y. Mercury, has left her husband's camp because it is infinitely stupid. Her husband should ashamed of himself.

The next news from Europe will be full seven days later than that received by the Australasian, and can not fail to be highly interesting.

Personal.

We had the pleasure on yesterday of meeting our talented and amiable friend of the Winchester (Tenn.) Daily Bulletin, Mr. Wm. J. Slaton, whose contributions both to the political and journalistic literature of the South have made him well known and duly appreciated during the last few years.

Our thanks are due to the fair ladies of La Grange, Ga., for a beautiful bouquet. It consists of a rare selection of the flowers of the season, exquisitely arranged in a circle around a snowy ball of our own native cotton, not forgetting to embrace a pod of pepper and a leaf of corn. We take this little memento as the most flattering tribute to our patriotism and zeal, and recognize it as a bright flower in the weary, dreary labor of the editorial career. If we were a poet we should write our thanks in a golden rhyme.

It is given out in well-informed circles that Mr. R. L. Buchanan, will, in a short time, present to the people of the United States his long-expected and elaborate defense of his administration.

The Empress Eugenie is determined to introduce beef-eating in Paris, and Eliz. the celebrated matador, has been engaged for the part at the hippodrome.

Captain Arthur L. Rogers, of the London Battery, has been promoted to the rank of Major of Artillery, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the late battle at Manassas.

Hermes, the Richmond correspondent of the Charleston Courier, tells a story of dining with Gen. Lee and the etiquette of the dinner table. Hermes says:

"Does he sit at the head of the table?" I enquired. "No, indeed, he sits at the side; the Adjutant general does the carving, of course. He general asks you what you will have. You say beef. The general turns to Col. Chilton and says: Beef for Capt. B., Col. Chilton don't mind putting it solemnly on your plate and says:

"Beef for Capt. B.,
By order of General Lee,
R. H. Chilton, A. A. G."

BY GRAPE-VINE AND OTHERWISE.

ON DITS OF THE DAY.

CHATTANOOGA, Saturday Evening, S.P.M.

The New York election has not surprised me. Unspoken boldness, vehement denunciation, much "sound and fury signifying nothing" almost invariably succeed before the wild, chaotic, fickle populace. The Democrats dealt largely in these elements of mob clamor and electioneering clap-trap; whilst the corruption of the Administration, the recklessness of Congress and the failure of the military supplied them with every argument, they could wish. The first war-mania over, the fear of arrest partially subsided and the prospect of success alluring, the orators and office-seeker of the "outs" made one desperate assault against the "ins," and triumphed, as in nine cases out of ten, they always do under similar circumstances.

New Jersey and Illinois the result has been equally prosperous for the Democrats, and it is now certain that the next House of Representatives will be against the Administration by a clear, working majority. The Senate will be equally decided in their favor.

These things will of course excite a degree of interest in the South, beyond their deserts. Every one has been looking to the November elections with more or less curiosity; and some with a degree of hope. Such hopes are unquestionably delusions, so far as they promote any expectations of present relief. The far off good, which may flow out of them, is also contingent, and by no means definite. Of course all division in the North is our advantage. But to what extent will their division go? Again two houses of Congress of diametrically opposite politics, are pleasant objects of future contemplation. But all in all, the elections just held, present too immature and incipient an appearance to justify any conclusions, one way or the other.

There is a rumor this evening that our troops are in hot combat around Nashville. A gentleman has just assured me that the fortifications upon St. Cloud's hill, are in our possession. I do not believe one word of it. I must confess that the capture of Nashville looks rather gloomy at present, and recedes from us slowly every day. One month ago, I could see the hill and upon the Court House clock, now I barely discern the cupola of the capitol in the dim distance. Prosecution has lost many a man his fortune and his fame, and seems about to lose Tennessee the seat of Government.

IRA KETCHUM, S.A.

Musical and Dramatic.

Miss Cushman, the actress, it is stated, has lost most of her fortune and is about to return to the stage. She is living in Paris.

Mr. Richings and daughter are still playing at Rochester.

An offer of £10,000 has been made to Mr. Charles Kyan for three months' engagement in Australia, for readings, &c.

There are all sorts of predictions of an early general engagement in Virginia. But let us hope the majority of "rumors" and "revelations" received from that quarter, not entitled to more weight than any other expressions and speculations. We are likely to have a great battle in the Four-west before the cannon roar thunder among the hills of the old Dominion.

Mrs. Kate Bateman, formerly noted as one of the "Bateman children" has made a great hit as a natural actress.

Letters have been received in New York announcing the loss of a vessel (name not stated) on its way from Australia to the United States, with a troupe of minstrels on board. Among those supposed to be lost are Tom Brower, Demarest, the dancer and John Raynor, formerly with the Buckleys.

Mr. and Mrs. Barney Williams are at the Boston Athenaeum.

Gottschalk has been giving concerts at Providence, Boston, Worcester and Lawrence. The boy pianist, Page, is giving concerts in Toronto, under the patronage of Major General Sir W. Napier. The little fellow has been pestered and feted by all the leading people in Canada, and has been received at the residence of Lord Monk, Lord Frederick, Pantel and Lord Alexander Russell.

Joseph Probst commenced an engagement in Cincinnati on the 11th. J. Wilkes Booth and his wife are to be present.

A new drama, entitled "England and America," is in preparation at the Montreal theatre.

Tom Maguire, of the Metropolitan, San Francisco, has retired from theatrical life, and is succeeded in the lesseehip of the house by Mr. Charles Tibbets, who had it when it first opened.

See—Says the Atlanta Intelligencer of a late date:

We yesterday had an interview with a gentleman just from Canada, who informed us that when Gen. Butler's "woman" (she was first received in Canada, that a Mr. Benet a Yankee, who kept a noted first class Hotel at London in Canada publicly endorsed the infamous order at the breakfast table, and that before night forty-one British officers—which always lodged at this, the best house, ordered their baggage and indignantly left the hotel.

He states further that Canada is awfully poor with organ-grinders and that they universally commence and quail with "Dixie." He thinks the British subjects in Canada strongly sympathize with the South.

200 Wood Choppers Wanted.

CONSTANT employment and prompt pay, with good wages. Apply at office of the undersigned at Stowall Iron Works.

JOHN E. COLEMAN, P. M. & M. Company.

TAKEN up by the subscriber about two weeks ago, a large red bell, with his tail cut off. The subscriber can get the animal by proving property and losing charges.

JAMES SMITH,
4 miles South of Chattanooga.

Quinton's Opera's Day, Oct. 21st, 1863.

Certified accounts of R. H. Banks, Capt. and Quartermaster, will be paid at the office of Nov. 2nd.

R. F. JONES,
Maj. & Quartermaster.

LIST OF LETTERS Remaining in the P. O. at Chattanooga, No. 1 November 9th, 1862.

Adams M.
Armour A.C.
Axley A.W.
Anderson R.B.
Anderson Joss A.

Barnett W.S.
Barker J.M.
Barker F.T.
Brantly J.H.
Bartzer T.A.
Beadon P.
Barren Sam. B.C.S.N.

Barker Joss A.

Bark T.A.

Bartson L.

Bartlett W.B.

Bartlett W.D.

Bartlett W.L.

Bartlett W.M.

Bartlett W.R.

Bartlett W.S.

Bartlett W.T.

Bartlett W.W.

Bartlett W.X.

Bartlett W.Y.

Bartlett W.Z.

Bartlett W.

Bartlett W.